

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

S-E-C-R-E-T  
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<b>COUNTRY</b>	Czechoslovakia	<b>REPORT</b>		25X1
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Czechoslovak Production of Floating Suction Dredges for the USSR	<b>DATE DISTR.</b>	23 May 1955	
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1. One of the two floating suction dredges that had been completed earlier for the USSR left its anchorage near the Strekov Dam<sup>1</sup> on the Elbe River, near Usti nad Labem, about 20 August 1954.<sup>2</sup> It started the journey to the USSR via Magdeburg, Berlin, Szczecin, and the Baltic. The second dredge is also to leave shortly. Both underwent final tests on the Elbe River, near Zarnoseky (sic), at the beginning of August 1954.
2. After a long period of indecision, the Soviets have now placed an order for 60 dredges of this type. They are to be manufactured by the CKD shipyards in Prague. This will require hiring an additional 120 workers, and notices to this effect have already been posted by the shipyard. Details of production and delivery dates are not yet known. Meanwhile, the CKD shipyards will continue to build river barges for Czechoslovak river transport.
3. A team of 10 Soviet engineers came to Usti nad Labem to test the two dredges that were completed. They behaved in a most arrogant manner and there were many complaints about them. They gave orders to the Czechoslovak engineers and workmen and often made insistent demands that trivial defects, such as minor scratches, be put right at once. It was finally agreed that of the sixty dredges ordered, only one in seven would be tested by the Soviets.

1. Comment: The town of Strekov is located at N 50-39, E 14-04.

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